

The Job Ridgway House
Near Jobstown, Springfield Township
Burlington County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-600

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NJ
3-JOBSTO.
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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NJ
3-Jobston

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The Job Ridgway House
Near Jobstown, Springfield Township
Burlington County, New Jersey

Owner: Ernest Cook

Date of Erection: 1753, with subsequent additions

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Job Ridgway Jr. (died 18 July 1782)

Present Condition: Original house preserved by incorporation into larger one formed by units added to rear and to east end subsequently. All window sash and doors replaced by modern ones

Number of Stories: Two and one-half, and cellar

Materials of Construction:

Foundation - stone masonry
Exterior walls - brick (molded or cut brick water table)
Interior walls - frame
Flooring - modern maple laid over original
Chimneys - brick (since removed above roof, fireplaces closed and mantels removed
Roof - gable, wood shingled)

Historical Data:

The identity of the first owner of the original unit of this composite house as indicated by his initials "I.R." and the date of erection 1753, (both worked in brick headers in the exposed gable end wall) is discovered by search made in the public records reported as follows:

The title to the land has been traced some 67 years previous to the date of the house built thereon in 1753, for a survey of 340 acres in Springfield Township, Burlington County, bounded east by Christopher Wetherill's land, south by George Hutcheson's and west by Hananiah Gauntt's, made to John Butcher on 20 July 1686 is found on record.

By deed of 4 June 1725, this John Butcher of Springfield Township, Burlington County, conveyed to his son William Butcher the 340 acre tract abovesaid, "with all the houses, buildings" etc. Whatever dwellings were on the tract at that date, some 28 years previous to the erection of the one here surveyed, have not been investigated. The grantee William Butcher, being likewise of Springfield Township, by his will of 12 March 1727, proved 13 April 1728, devised "unto my dear and well beloved brother-in-law Job Ridgway, all my plantation" there.

Job Ridgway(a) of Springfield Township, who thus came into possession of the Butcher estate in 1728, divided it by his will of 10 February 1761, proved 2 June following, between his sons Solomon and Job, describing it as "all that land and plantation which I had from my brother-in-law William Butcher..... Solomon to have the western part and Job the eastern part."(b) The brothers established the line of partition of the 340 acres by their quitclaim deeds of 31 October 1765.

Previously, by deed of 27 April 1752, the son Job Ridgway Jr. had acquired from Samuel Gauntt, both parties being of Springfield Township, $16\frac{1}{2}$ acres adjacent to the southwest corner of his share of the paternal estate, being part of 500 acres surveyed originally to Hannaniah Gauntt, the grantor's grandfather, in 4th mo. 1685. On 31 October 1765 Job Ridgway also acquired 7 acres from his brother Solomon lying next west of that $16\frac{1}{2}$ acres. The house is located not on these added parcels but on Job's share of the original plantation. He had built it thereon in 1753 some eight years previous to his coming into possession of the land by the devise from his father as abovesaid.

- (a) Job Ridgway, eldest son of Richard Ridgway (who came from Welford, Berkshire, Eng. 1679 in ship "Jacob and Mary" of London to Burlington, N.J., and settled in Falls Tp., Bucks Co., Pa., but removed to Springfield Twp., Burlington Co., N.J. and died there in 1723) by his 2nd wife, Abigail Stockton. (George C. Ridgway, Descent of the Ridgway Family in England and America, 1926, pp. 56,60). Job Ridgway received license on 7 of 10th mo. 1719 Rebecca Butcher per records of Burlington Monthly Meeting of Friends. (W.W. Hindshaw, Encycl. Amer. Quaker Genealogy, II, 253.
- (b) Abstract of will publ. in N.J. Archives XXXIII, 354

Job Ridgway Jr. (c) abovesaid, died intestate and the title to his homestead farm descended to his children, Job, Jonathan and Rebecca. The last two by quitclaim deed of 14 March 1789, conveyed their undivided interest in the farm to their brother, Job Ridgway 3rd. He dying intestate and without issue, the title became vested in his said brother Jonathan Ridgway and sister Rebecca (later wife of Michael Earl). By deed of 19 March 1796, she granted her undivided interest to her brother Jonathan Ridgway, who thus became sole owner of the farm.

This Jonathan Ridgway added tracts of 8 acres and 3 acres along the eastern line of the farm by deed of 26 April 1818 from John Black and wife Sarah, being part of the land originally surveyed to Christopher Wetherill in 1686. In his will dated 13 May 1847, proved 12 April 1851, this Jonathan Ridgway devised these several adjoining parcels of land constituting his Homestead Farm to his great nephew, Richard C. Shreve Jr. and his great niece Rebecca E. Shreve equally the former of whom conveyed his half part thereof to his father, Richard C. Shreve of Mt. Holly, by deed of 21 February 1861* for \$10,000.

(c) Job Ridgway Jr. of Springfield Township, married Mary Wright, dau. of John Wright, in 1761 and had issue: Rebecca b. 3 Nov. 1762, Job b. 23 July 1764 and Jonathan b. 23 Nov. 1766. (Ridgway, cited in (a) p. 103) Job Ridgway Jr. d. 18 July 1782. (Proc. Surveyors Assoc. W.N.J., 1880, p. 265)

* Recorded in Burlington County Deed Book P6-470

In the deed last mentioned (and in which the title is recited at length as above outlined) the farm is described as containing some 204 acres situated "about a mile northeast from the village of Jobstown, Springfield Township", and as having a frontage of about 3/4 of a mile extending northward from the Monmouth Road along the eastern side of the road from Jobstown to Georgetown. At the time our survey of the house in July 1939, Mr. Ernest Cook was the owner of the farm.

Bibliography:

Report on search of title in the Land and Probate records of Burlington County and in those of the Provincial Secretary (now deposited in the office of the Secretary of State), by Oscar F. Benjamin, research editor, and William A. Brown, abstractor, 8 May 1940

Lucas D. Cook

Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams

SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer

10/2/50